



**HISTORICAL  
GEOGRAPHY  
RESEARCH  
GROUP**

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Copy for the next issue:  
**Oct 22nd, 2017**

Please send to:  
**jake.hodder@nottingham.ac.uk**

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HGRG Newsletter, Summer 2017



**Historical Geography Research Group**

# NEWSLETTER

- SUMMER 2017 -

## Letter from the Chair

Dear HGRG members,

Welcome to the summer edition of the HGRG newsletter. The days are long, the weather is good and for those of us in academic jobs, marking and exam boards are coming to an end. The university summer vacation stretches out before us filled with (most likely wildly over-optimistic) plans for research, writing and summer holiday academic reading. We'd love to hear more about our members plans for the season, so do feel free to tweet us @HGRG\_RGS using the hashtags #HGRGsummer. I'll be encouraging committee members to do the same and it'll be lovely to keep abreast of all your exciting travels to archives, field sites and conferences. You might even choose to post a snap or two from your summer holiday. Points (but no prizes) for those that are historical geography themed!

This summer's RGS-IBG conference looks to be a busy one. The Group are sponsoring thirteen sessions at the conference, in addition to launching the new Teaching Historical Geography website and hosting mentoring drinks for our postgraduate and early career members. The Group's Annual General Meeting takes place on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September 13:10-14:25 and all members are welcome to attend. There will be a number of positions available on the HGRG committee this summer as serving members complete their terms (formal thanks to whom will follow in the autumn edition of the newsletter) and I would encourage anyone potentially interested in serving on the HGRG committee to get in touch with me directly ([b.mcdonagh@hull.ac.uk](mailto:b.mcdonagh@hull.ac.uk)).

Now to the newsletter and its contents: this edition includes another brilliant reflection on 'How I became a Historical Geographer', this time from Simon Naylor. There follows another of our reports from the archives (from Dean Bond, who sounds like he's having great fun hanging out in German university archives) and two conference reports from the AAG in Boston (kindly written by Ruth Craggs) and the RGS-IBG Postgraduate Mid-term Conference in Cardiff (penned by Aditya Ramesh and Jacob Fairless Nicholson). Read together, these four pieces remind us both of the international dimensions of historical geography and of the

potential for historical geographical research to contribute to wider social, economic and political debates in the here-and-now.

On the first of these themes, readers might like to note that the call for proposals for next year's International Conference of Historical Geographers, to be held at the University of Warsaw, Poland, 15-20<sup>th</sup> July 2018, has recently been circulated (more news here: <http://ichg2018.uw.edu.pl/second-circular-call-for-proposals/>). I'm delighted to announce that the HGRG will be offering postgraduate and early career members the opportunity to apply for a bursary towards attending the ICHG in Warsaw, so please do watch the website and twitter feed for more information on these in the coming months. In addition, I'm also very pleased to inform readers that the Group is now sponsoring the *HGRG Harley Fellowship*, which offers postgraduates and early career researchers the opportunity to travel to London or elsewhere in the UK in order to work on collections concerned with the history of cartography (offering funding of £400 a week for up to four weeks). More information is available on the J. B. Harley Research Trust's website at <http://www.maphistory.info/application.html>.

Along with the usual very valuable notices and announcements, this edition of the newsletter also includes advance notice of the preliminary programme for this autumn's Practising Historical Geography workshop, due to take place at Manchester Metropolitan University on Wednesday November 8<sup>th</sup>. It's a great line up that our conference officer Cheryl McGeachan has organised, and I'd encourage our postgraduate and undergraduate members to sign up *post haste* (which you can do by emailing [Cheryl.Mcgeachan@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Cheryl.Mcgeachan@glasgow.ac.uk)). Finally, I should like to draw members' attention to the launch of the new historical geography section in the journal, *Geography Compass*. HGRG member Paul Griffin is section editor and I know would be keen to hear from budding contributors (email him on [paul.griffin@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:paul.griffin@northumbria.ac.uk)).

With kind regards, and the best of luck for all your summer research plans.

Brian McDonagh, HGRG Chair

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# How I became a historical geographer

## Simon Naylor



**Simon Naylor** is Senior Lecturer in Human Geography at the University of Glasgow. He is also currently one of four co-editors of the *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*. His research interests include the historical geographies of science, technology and exploration. He is the author of *Regionalizing Science: Placing Knowledges in Victorian England* (2010) and the co-editor (w/ James Ryan) of *New Spaces of Discovery: Geographies of Exploration in the Twentieth Century* (2009). Simon is currently working towards a new book on meteorological observatories in nineteenth-century Britain and its empire.

I wish I could begin this potted autobiography with the story of an inspiring geography teacher, or of tales of geographical auto-didacticism in the landscapes of my youth. But frankly both would be fabrications. For point of information, I grew up in Camborne, a generally down-at-heel tin-mining town in West Cornwall. (The eagle-eyed reader of this column will note that Nicola Thomas, who wrote a lovely 'How I became...' in the Summer 2016 issue of this Newsletter, also harks from the same place.) I did study Geography at school although I can't remember the name of my teacher or indeed much of what I studied. The only thing I can actually recall was a laughably bad project on the quality of road surfacing in and around the village of Illogan. I didn't study history at all after about the age of 14. I do though remember my English teacher, Mr King, with much fondness, a Labour activist and Cornish nationalist, who encouraged us all to study for a GCSE in the Cornish language (I didn't to my shame). I decided to study A-Level Geography, with a vague plan to study English Literature too, but when I went to an open day the geography teacher told me it would be much better if I stuck with the sciences and did Geology instead. So I did. Turns out he also taught Geology. Anyway, I enjoyed both.

Like many aspiring Cornish students I decided to head across the Bristol Channel to pursue a degree in Geography at what was then (in 1991) University College Swansea. I took Geology as a subsidiary subject, for the not very noble reason that I thought it would be less work than studying a new subject. One of the lecturers on the course (Danny McCarroll I think) spent a lot of time talking about the history of geology, which was the first time I'd come across the history of science and I found it fascinating. I was really fortunate to be an undergraduate at Swansea just as they took on a crop of new young human geography staff, including Pyrs Gruffudd, Gareth Jones, Paul Boyle and Keith Halfacree. All of these people helped me to develop as an academic geographer, despite only sporadic efforts on my part. Gareth and Pyrs were especially supportive. It is not a stretch to say

that I wouldn't be an academic myself if it hadn't been for them. With their encouragement I put in a PhD application to study Anglo-Argentine relations in the second half of the nineteenth century. I didn't get the funding to work with them at Swansea, but did get a grant to study for a PhD with Steve Hinchliffe and Tony Phillips at the University of Keele. Although I stuck with the same topic, Steve introduced me to exciting new perspectives—Science and Technology Studies (STS) and Actor-Network Theory. It was a heady time to be at Keele in that regard. John Law, in Sociology at Keele, had just established the University's Centre for Social Theory and Technology. John became something of an informal mentor. The University received a steady flow of leading STS thinkers, including the likes of Bruno Latour and Michel Callon. I still remember with some embarrassment an awkward conversation with Donna Haraway about jacket potato toppings at a barbeque in John Law's back garden.

After Keele I took up a job as a postdoctoral research assistant at the University of Oxford. The project was a census of religious architecture in Britain, specifically its mosques, gurdwaras and mandirs. It was led by Ceri Peach, while James Ryan was the co-investigator on the grant. I'd got to know James when we were both members of the Social and Cultural Geography Research Group of the RGS/IBG and had both helped to organise the Research Group's 'Cultural Turns, Geographical Turns' conference in 1997. I've been fortunate enough to have worked with James ever since. Another advantage of being at Oxford was getting to know the historians of science there and spending time in the extraordinary Museum of the History of Science on Broad Street. After Oxford I took up a lectureship at the University of Bristol. I remember early on in my lectureship a strong feeling of freedom to pursue whatever topic I chose, without the constraints of a qualification or demands of a funding body. (Don't worry, the sensation soon passed.) I chose to begin a study of nineteenth-century natural history and antiquarian societies back in my home county of Cornwall. I ended up spending 10 years on that





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project before a book eventually came out in 2010. It was certainly helped by a move to the University of Exeter's Cornwall campus in 2007. I have very fond memories of the 50-mile round trip to the Morrab Library in Penzance on my road bike—cycling and archive study, with a pasty for lunch! In 2013 I left Cornwall again for the University of Glasgow, where I am now. The run to work along the Forth and Clyde Canal and the Kelvin River is frankly no match for the Cornish coastline, but getting to pound the paths with Hayden Lorimer goes some way to making up for that.

One of the chapters of my book on Cornish science looked at the pursuit of meteorology and climatology. Nowadays I seem to work on little else. I was very lucky to collaborate with a talented group of scholars on a large project, led by Georgina Endfield, on the historical geographies of extreme weather in Britain since 1700. Spending time on the Outer Hebrides with Neil Macdonald and James Bowen was one of the real highlights of the grant. I continue to be fascinated by the history of meteorology and

have been visiting archives for something like eight or nine years with a view to writing a book on the subject, although with no immediate end in sight or reassuringly thick draft manuscript to show for all that labour. It has been my great privilege to have my intellectual vistas expanded through recent collaborations with Simon Schaffer at Cambridge and through the supervision of a group of very talented PhD students at Glasgow. I recently took on the co-editorship of the *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*. I remember being in awe of Pyrs Gruffudd's 1994 paper in *Transactions* as an undergraduate, and utterly thrilled when I managed to get a paper published in the journal in 2002. So it is genuinely with feelings of happy bemusement that I find myself at the helm of this august publication. It is of course a journal that endeavours to represent the geographical discipline as a whole and so quite rightly does not privilege certain sub-disciplines over others. But, strictly between you and me, it has been particularly rewarding to work with the authors of some excellent papers on historical geography topics. □

# From the archive

## From Germany:

Dean Bond,  
Loughborough University

In the fall of 2016, Dr Heike Jöns and I began a project—funded by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation—on the role of travel in the rise of the modern research university. Our aim for this project is to determine what role various forms of academic travel had in the making and transformation of the modern German research university. To do so, we set out to examine six universities, namely Heidelberg (est. 1386), Würzburg (est. 1402), Leipzig (est. 1409), Halle (est. 1694), Göttingen (est. 1734) and Berlin (est. 1810).

When we began the project, it was unclear how much relevant material we would find in each archive. This is, of course, part of the nature of archival work. Several of the university archives lack searchable online catalogues, and instead only provide a basic outline of the archive structure on their web pages. The university archive in Leipzig is a notable exception, having an excellent, searchable online database. Lacking access to printed catalogues, I had to write to archivists in advance and ask them to provide any relevant material concerning travel. All of the archivists I have contacted have been helpful, having dug up material on travel from across their collections. Arriving at an archive

and discovering the type and volume of files laid out for me has indeed been an exciting part of the archival research process.

For our project, we are focussed on providing a 'big picture' narrative of developments in German academic travel. To this end, we have concentrated on searching for administrative files concerning leaves of absence, and in so doing, we have built on Dr Jöns' previous work on travel at Cambridge. The volume and detail of the administrative files varies greatly across universities, with Göttingen and Leipzig boasting the most extensive coverage from 1700–1914. Yet, none of the archives have extensive documentation for every year or decade in this period. This is partly because files have been lost or destroyed in the war, and partly because certain universities were closed for a time (for example, Halle was closed by Napoleon in 1806 and reopened in 1817 as the University of Halle-Wittenberg). To the extent that we can, we are using personnel files to fill in some of the gaps in the administrative record. As with the leave of absence files, the volume and detail of the personnel files varies greatly, both within and across university archives.

The character of the archives as places varies considerably. The University archives in Göttingen, where I have spent the most time, are part of the Lower Saxony State and University Library of Göttingen. The university archives are,



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## From the archive

however, separate from the main university library. They are located within a building—now affectionately known as *die alte SUB*, or “Old State and University Library”—that was part of the original university site in the old town. The university archive material is available for viewing within the Manuscripts and Rare Prints reading room, which is adjacent to the much larger, main Rare Books reading room. The reading room is rather small, boasting only four long tables that are surrounded on either side by bookshelves filled with catalogues and reference works (see photo). Its small size, along with the fact that I have come to know many of the staff over the last several years, makes it one of the most enjoyable and cosy archives to work in.



**Manuscripts and Rare Books Reading Room,  
Lower Saxony State and University Library of  
Göttingen.** Image credit: Dean W. Bond

The Leipzig university archive is housed in a large, imposing nineteenth-century building that once contained stalls for postal horses and accommodations for postal workers. Located on the first floor, it has two separate reading rooms, each with glass walls and microfilm readers, which I had to use to look through some of the university statutes. It is a comfortable place to work, and the staff are quite helpful, although in some ways it feels as though one is working in an office rather than an archive. That said, the Leipzig leave of absence files—along with those in Göttingen—offer the most extensive coverage, and thus constitute a central source for our project.

The Halle university archive is housed in a rather less grand building (see photo). Halle has perhaps one of the smallest reading rooms, with places for only four or five people. Nevertheless, the staff in Halle were some of the friendliest and most helpful I have encountered. As I was browsing through documents, staff would come to me to let me know that they had found additional documents that might be of interest, or they would recommend to me printed catalogues that might be of use. I had hoped to find an extensive record of leaves of absence for the period 1694-1806 that we could compare with the records in Göttingen, which after its



**Leipzig University Archive**  
Image credit: Dean W. Bond

opening in 1737 quickly overtook Halle as the premier university in the German territories. Sadly, I discovered that such records have not survived.

For universities with a significant volume of material, and even for those with less, gathering information is not a simple task. Most of the university archives do not permit photography, and if they allow it, there are restrictions on the number of documents one can photograph. Fortunately, most archives allow one to order scans, but even then, there are limits. One cannot simply order scans of a large file that contains, say, 300 pages. Thus far, I have tended to transcribe the most significant documents, such as professors' applications for travel where they explain in detail their reason for travelling.



**Halle University Archive**  
Image credit: Dean W. Bond



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## From the archive

Otherwise, I have read the applications and approvals for travel and entered the information concerning individual travels into a database. The database will be a crucial resource as we reconstruct the story of how travel influenced the making and transformation of the modern research university.

What has become clear from my time in the archives is that covering six universities in detail

would be an enormous task. Going through all the personnel files to fill in the gaps left in the leave of absence records would simply require time and labour power that we lack as a two-person team. Having realised this, we now plan to focus on Göttingen and Leipzig to discuss the other universities in less detail. We hope that the resulting book and articles will be especially interesting for historical geographers, historians of science and university historians. □

## Conference Reports

### AAG Conference, Boston

April 5 - 9, 2017

*by Ruth Craggs*

The American Association of Geographers Conference (AAG) in Boston was a good one. There were plenty of sessions of interest (even if they often clashed) and freezing weather for most of the week kept those sometimes inclined to explore the historical geography of the host cities rather than attending lots of sessions within the convention centre! For historical geographers, there was a packed schedule—even the Antipode lecture, given by the scholar of literature Lisa Lowe—was historical, focusing on the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> century expansion of empires and questions of freedom.

Other big names speaking at the conference included Noam Chomsky and David Harvey, both of whom have made enough AAG appearances to warrant a historical study in their own right. Whilst neither said anything particularly new, Chomsky was very interesting on his own early career at MIT and the military

funding which was at that time pouring into the social sciences. The theme of the interactions between academia and the military was explored in more detail in a pair of sessions organised by Matthew Farish, Elliot Child and Trevor J. Barnes. 'Geography, War and the Human Sciences' 1 and 2 explored a range of topics focusing mainly on the United States military in the context of the Cold War. The first session (and the only one I was able to go to) was truly absorbing, as we heard about mass interrogation (from Elliot Child), about the Korean War Prison (from Richard Nisa) about experiments with brainwashing (in a fantastic paper from the historian of science Rebecca Lemov) and about survival geography (from Matthew Farish). Some of the papers were as chilling as they were grimly fascinating and showed how much more there is to explore about the relationship between social sciences, including geography, and the military.

In a mixed session entitled 'History of Geography 1: people and institutions' two papers stood out. The first, by Jorn Seemann entitled 'Lebensraum, the Amazon from 1914 to 1945' focused on the influence of German





# Conference Reports

geographical ideas in South America. The second, by Peter Eckman explored the ideas about the urban emerging from the Harvard-MIT Joint Center for Urban Studies, 1959-1975. The latter was fascinating but slightly impenetrable as it tried to do too much—I will look out for the published version. There were also a number of interesting sessions about the history of geography that I couldn't attend. These included several sessions in memory of William Bunge, a session on 'Women in the History of Geography' and '50 years of Clark Radical Geography'. Keep your eyes peeled for any special issues that might emerge from these sessions over the next year or so.

The undoubted highlight of the conference for me was Audrey Kobayashi's Distinguished Historical Geography Lecture, organized by Kirsten Greer, entitled 'Historical Geography in the Service of Social Justice', which was a tour de force. Kobayashi has made important contributions to a whole range of issues including race, public policy, and the history of geography, and these interests all came together in her account which focused on her career-long interest in the experience of Japanese migrants to Canada. Travelling through Kobayashi's career from her PhD research in Japan to her most recent activist work in Toronto, the paper provided a salutary lesson in remaining committed to particular intellectual and political questions throughout a whole lifetime of work. The paper discussed the different national traditions of historical geography scholarship—from the reading of cultural

landscapes to rigorous quantitative archival research—she encountered in Canada and Japan. It also demonstrated how historical geographical work, even that conducted decades before, can be utilized effectively in campaigning. Kobayashi drew on her PhD database of Japanese migrants to Canada (which she has added to consistently over the years since) in 1990s campaigns for redress for Japanese Canadians impacted by wartime upheavals and internment. She also spoke fascinatingly about her continuing work on the legacies of Japanese settlement in Toronto, about the cultural landscapes of tiny apartment types and shop fronts which still reflect this history, about the poverty that characterizes what is now known as Japan Town (J-Town) and about plans to 'regenerate' the area as 'Little Tokyo' with repercussions for the existing communities. Leading public walking tours of the area, Kobayashi surprises audiences by focusing not solely on history, but also on the uncomfortable pressing problems of the neighbourhood today (of which the walking tourists play a part). Blending intellectual commitment and scholarship with activism and political engagement over decades, Kobayashi's work offers a useful template for historical geographers, and a great rebuke to those who might argue that historical research cannot be impactful or politically engaged. □

**Ruth Craggs** is Lecturer in Cultural and Historical Geography at King's College, London.

## RGS-IBG Mid-term Conference, Cardiff

April 19 - 21, 2017

*by Aditya Ramesh and  
Jacob Fairless Nicholson*

Following the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual meeting of the HGRG in Aberystwyth earlier in the academic year, the 2017 RGS-IBG Mid-term conference meant a second visit to Wales in quick succession for those budding historical geographers not based there. After a few hours to familiarise oneself with the city, taking in its streets and parks (or in the case of one of the authors, the climbing walls too), RGS mid-term delegates were welcomed to Cardiff University's geography department at an evening keynote lecture and drinks reception in the stunning Main Building of the city campus. The lecture, part exposé on urban story walking, part exposition of the project to make London the world's first National Park City by guerrilla

geographer Daniel Raven-Ellison, was a lively start to the conference, and an injunction for us to think through the role of geography in public discourse.

The first full day of the conference kicked off with a second keynote, this time by Cardiff's Professor Mark Jayne on alcohol-consumption, drunkenness and violence. 'Now we've got that keynote thing out of the way it's time for the important stuff' remarked Prof Jayne after his lecture, an affirming and humble comment that reminded us of the *raison d'être* of RGS-IBG mid-term: a conference for—and by—postgraduate geographers to hone their craft in a supportive and emboldening environment. The first panel session thus followed, which for us meant a fantastic two hours of Migration & Citizenship in which a paper on the Amazigh—or Berbers—of North Africa reminded the historical geographers in the room of the power of histories of empire in constructing performances of citizenship in modern-day France. A double header of workshops on Mobile and Qualitative Methods followed a tasty



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## Conference Reports

lunch (even though we were all pretty full from the Bara brith and Welsh cakes had in the refreshments break earlier), after which it was time for the second paper panel of the day. 'Inequalities' was the theme of this session, and papers took in food activism, squatting settlements in Ankara, and the contested societal responsibilities posed by the lives of street children.



**Bara brith and Welsh cakes**

Source: Twitter

Following an evening of many interesting conversations, classic Welsh food and a cycle ride up the picturesque Taff Trail (pictured), the second day of the RGS-IBG postgrad mid-term conference opened with a series of thematic research group sessions. There were four sessions participants could head to, including sessions on cultural, environmental, social, and urban geographies. Each was led by a member of the Geography and Planning Department at Cardiff University, and promised an informal discussion on key themes which animated the current concerns of each sub-discipline. At the session for environmental geography led by Dr Andrew Krytheosis, the discussion focussed on how environmental geographers can use 'facts' in a post-truth world. The question posed was pertinent and pressing—how can geographers culturally make facts on the environment more palatable to a general public in an age well into the Anthropocene?

The day was packed with fascinating sessions, and all attendees wished to be in two if not three places at once. A session titled 'resistance, activism, and action' brought together a series of problems in how geographers relate to problem spaces whether it might be prisons, disability homes, or the archive. After a quick lunch, four parallel panels on gender, geopolitics,

education, and urbanization held much promise. Four urban geographers explored ideas around port cities, housing in Istanbul, communication technology in Columbia, and gentrification in Rotterdam. The Historical Geography session was in the final set of panels of the day (and thus the conference), but attendance was high, and remarkably, so were energy levels. Attendees were treated to four papers taking in British residential care homes for the disabled, eclipse expeditions to Tonga in the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century, biographical approaches to evolutionary theory and medical science, and narratives of damn engineering in 1930s Madras respectively. This breadth, as can be expected in any historical geography panel, proved conceptually demanding as we meandered through the performativity of encounter, bottom-up approaches to care-giving and postcolonial contributions to the geographical canon.

Overall the conference was welcoming, warm, and academically stimulating. What was particularly striking was the generosity of early career academics at Cardiff University and their efforts to offer detailed comments to panellists, as well as have informal discussions on specific areas of interest. Hearty congratulations and thanks to the organizers who truly were exemplary hosts, and we look forward to returning to Cardiff for the RGS-proper in summer of 2018. □

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**Aditya Ramesh** and **Jacob Fairless Nicholson** are PhD students at SOAS and King's College London, respectively. They attended the RGS-IBG Mid-term Conference with the financial support of the HGRG.



**The Taff Trail**

Source: Jacob Fairless Nicholson



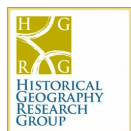
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## Announcements

## ANNOUNCEMENTS



### Practising Historical Geography 23rd Annual Postgraduate and Undergraduate One-day Conference

#### 2017 Programme

- 09:30 Conference registration
- 09:50 Welcome by Briony McDonagh (Chair, HGRG)
- 10:00 Keynote lecture:  
*Professor Jon Stobart (MMU) Home comforts in Georgian England*
- 10:45 'Postgraduate voices': reflecting on past postgraduate experience
- 11:10 HGRG dissertation prize discussion
- 11:30 Coffee break
- 12:00 Historical geography workshop 1  
*Sarah Mills (Loughborough University) Ethics and Archival Research: Historical Geographies of Children & Youth.*
- 13:00 Lunch
- 14:00 Historical geography workshop 2  
*James Kneale (UCL) Title TBC*
- 15:00 Coffee break
- 15:15 Keynote Speaker:  
*Kimberly Peters (Liverpool University) Invisible infrastructures: maritime motorways and the making of global connections 1967-1977*
- 17:00 Closing comments

**Date:** Wednesday 8th November 2017

**Time:** 09:30—17:00

**Location:** Manchester Metropolitan University

**Cost:** £10, payable on arrival at the conference

This event is open to all. To register please contact Cheryl McGeachan ([Cheryl.Mcgeachan@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:Cheryl.Mcgeachan@glasgow.ac.uk))

### New Historical Geography Section to launch in *Geography Compass*

*Geography Compass* is pleased to announce the launch of a new historical geography section. The journal's aim of providing 'state of the art reviews' is retained in this new section. It is our hope that the articles published will provide surveys of existing areas of historical geography whilst also proposing future directions. In this regard, the journal is open to contributions from early career academics who are compiling literature reviews and overviews of particular fields. An editorial board is currently being established but the section remains open to outside ideas and innovations.

Please contact the section editor Paul Griffin ([paul.griffin@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:paul.griffin@northumbria.ac.uk)) if you have a suggestion for the new section.

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## Announcements

### Recently Completed PhD

#### ***Armchair Geography: Speculation, Synthesis, and the Culture of British Exploration c.1830-c.1870***

Natalie Cox, University of Warwick, 2017

This thesis recovers the practice of 'armchair geography' as an overlooked, yet significant aspect of the mid-nineteenth-century culture of exploration. These histories are popularly associated with such famed explorers as David Livingstone and John Hanning Speke, who travelled across Africa. Yet, far from the field, there were other geographers, like William Desborough Cooley and James MacQueen, who spoke, wrote, theorised, and produced maps about the world based not on their own observations, but on the collation, interpretation, speculation, and synthesis of existing geographical sources.

The dominant historical trope of geography through the nineteenth century is one of transition, shifting from an early modern textual practice of the 'armchair' to a modern science in the 'field'. This thesis challenges such a limited view by demonstrating how critical practices continued to be a pervasive presence in the period 1830–1870, and how these two modes of geography co-existed and overlapped, and were combined and contested. It seeks to dismantle the static binarism that positions the critical geographer as both separate and in opposition to the field explorer. The chapters move to survey explorers that sit; explorers that read; critical geographers that move; books that travel; and libraries that lay out the world. In so doing, it identifies and attends to the unsettled physical and spatial boundaries between modes and methods of geography. It examines the role of the 'armchair geographer' in developing geographical thought and practice, and in negotiations concerning credible knowledge at the newly founded Royal Geographical Society.

Crucially, this thesis expands the history of 'armchair' practices in geography beyond an entertaining tale of 'conflict' in exploration, and presents a critical examination of the many spatial manifestations of the 'field' and 'fieldwork' in geography's disciplinary identity. This thesis contributes a spatially sensitive account of geographical knowledge making that interrupts and challenges current histories of the development of geography as a field of knowledge and set of practices in the nineteenth century.

### Book Announcement

Alan R H Baker

#### ***Amateur Musical Societies and Sports Clubs in Provincial France 1848-1914***

Palgrave-Macmillan: Basingstoke

Recreational, not-for-profit, voluntary associations in France during the nineteenth century are explored as practical expressions of the Revolutionary concept of fraternité. Using a mass of unpublished and hitherto unused sources in provincial and national archives, Alan Baker analyses the history, geography and cultural significance of amateur musical societies (choral and instrumental) and sports clubs of provincial France between 1848 and 1914. Original research in eleven *départements* is set within the context of published historical studies of sociability in France. Baker demonstrates

that, although voluntary associations drew upon the traditional concepts of cooperation and community, and the Revolutionary concept of fraternity, they also were also marked by lively competition and fierce conflict. Intended to produce social harmony, in practice musical societies and sports clubs reflected the ideological hostilities and cultural tensions that permeated French society in the nineteenth century.

The book will be published on 5th August, 2017.



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## Announcements

### Call for Papers

#### ***Enlightening Maps: A Celebration of 25 Years of TOSCA— The Oxford Seminars in Cartography***

September 22, 2017, Bodleian Library, University of Oxford

In twenty-five years of lectures and field trips TOSCA has called attention to the enlightening power of maps. The series has shown how maps were co-opted into Enlightenment projects as tools for rational enquiry and the implementation of 'improvements'. We have seen maps as part of Enlightenment science—used by individuals, institutions, and governments to understand, demarcate, control, codify information about, and change the lands under their jurisdiction. The power of maps to open up lands, seas, peoples, and the rest of the natural world to the questing gaze of the outsider has been a constant TOSCA theme. TOSCA seminars have also interrogated maps dating from before and after the Enlightenment but which shed light on phenomena and connections between them. TOSCA audiences have seen how—on the wall of the schoolroom, in the wartime operations room, in the hands of the traveller, in the mark-up room of the newspaper editor, in the cabinet of the scholar, or on the laptop of the engineer—maps shape our understanding of the world, ourselves, and our place in the world. Though TOSCA seminars have amply demonstrated that maps can be tools of the elite and powerful, they have also uncovered mapping undertaken by the ostensibly powerless, as revealing exercise in citizen science, and as a means for those with radical, subversive, or countercultural agendas to enlighten audiences about the nature of elites.

To celebrate 25 years of TOSCA's cartographic explorations an all-day symposium and map display will be held in TOSCA's home, the Bodleian Library, Oxford, for which papers are invited on the theme of Enlightening Maps.

Topics may reflect but will not be limited to the themes outlined above, that is, maps of the period known as the Enlightenment but also maps used to shed perhaps unwelcome light on contentious questions of every sort and from every period. Presenters will join invited speakers Danny Dorling, University of Oxford, Peter Barber, formerly Head of Maps at the British Library, and Mike Parker, author of *Map Addict*.

Papers will be of 20 minutes and speakers will have the opportunity at a complementary session to illustrate their talks with primary material drawn from the Bodleian's extensive collections. Abstracts of 300 words (including title, summary, and a list of maps or types of maps wanted for display) for a paper of 20 minutes and a complementary primary material show should be sent to [elizabeth.baigent@geog.ox.ac.uk](mailto:elizabeth.baigent@geog.ox.ac.uk) by 15 July 2017.

Details of how to register will be advertised shortly, but Nick Millea ([nick.millea@bodleian.ox.ac.uk](mailto:nick.millea@bodleian.ox.ac.uk)) can be contacted with queries.

Nick Millea and Liz Baigent



[lovelljohns.com](http://lovelljohns.com)



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 [HGRG Twitter](https://twitter.com/HGRG Twitter)

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## Announcements

### Special Issue of *Archaeologies: Journal of the World Archaeological Congress*

Volume 13, Issue 1, April 2017

Guest edited by Richard M. Hutchings and Joshua Dent



#### Abstract

While archaeologists have always shown great interest in the rise and fall of premodern states, they perennially show little interest in their own. This is particularly troubling because the state is the nexus of power in archaeology. In practice, virtually all archaeology is state archaeology, imbued with and emboldened by state power. It is in this light that contributors to this Special Issue of *Archaeologies* grapple with the archaeology–state nexus, addressing such timely issues as colonialism, capitalism, and cultural resource or heritage management (CRM/CHM).

#### Contents

Archaeology and the Late Modern State: Introduction to the Special Issue

- *Richard M. Hutchings, Joshua Dent*

Are We “Ensnared in the System of Heritage” Because We Don’t Want to Escape?

- *Jeremy C. Wells*

Unpacking Neoliberal Archaeological Control of Ancient Indigenous Heritage

- *Paulette Steeves*

Archaeology as State Heritage Crime

- *Richard M. Hutchings and Marina La Salle*

Control of Indigenous Archaeological Heritage in Ontario, Canada

- *Gary Warrick*

Walking the Land: Aboriginal Trails, Cultural Landscapes, and Archaeological Studies for Impact Assessment

- *Patricia A. McCormack*

Tailors-Made: Heritage Governance Customization in Late Modern Canada

- *Joshua Dent*

Heritage Beyond Borders: Australian Approaches to Extra-National Built Heritage

- *Amy Clarke*

Full Spectrum Archaeology

- *Erin A. Hogg, John R. Welch, and Neal Ferris*

**Link to the Special Issue:** <http://link.springer.com/journal/11759/13/1/page/1>

### HGRG Harley Fellowship

For the period 2018-2020, the HGRG are delighted to announce sponsorship of at least one additional Harley Fellowship wholly or partly funded by the group. The purpose of the award is to support research of cartographic material in London or other parts of the UK, and may be awarded for up to four weeks, normally at £400 per week.

Eligibility for the HGRG supported awards is limited to postgraduates and early career researchers (those within 5 years of completing their PhD) working in the history of cartography, and applicants are encouraged to become members of the HGRG; otherwise the normal Harley Fellowship criteria apply.

More information is available on the J. B. Harley Research Trust’s website:

<http://www.maphistory.info/application.html>

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## Announcements

### Call for Papers

#### *Women's Negotiations of Space, 1500-1900*

A one-day interdisciplinary conference: 18th January 2018,  
University of Hull

This one-day conference, organised by PhD students from the Gender, Place and Memory Research Cluster and supported by the *Women's History Network* and *University of Hull Graduate School* aims to bring together scholars, early career researchers and postgraduate researchers working on all aspects of women's spatial histories between 1500 and 1900. Doreen Massey argued that 'particular ways of thinking about space and place are tied up with, both directly and indirectly, particular social constructions of gender relations.' This conference will investigate how women have used their agency to negotiate gender constructions in space-time; and the ways in which women's agency has been curtailed through constructed spatial limitations.

Due to generous funding from the Women's History Network and the University of Hull Graduate School, we are able to offer a number of small travel or accommodation bursaries to PG students and ECRs. Details will be available shortly.

Possible themes include, but are not limited to, women's roles and experiences in:

- Mobility and travel across space and life-cycles
- Domestic spaces and families
- Working and professional spaces
- Negotiations in legal spaces and engagement with the law
- Experiences of property ownership and relationships with property
- Agriculture, estate and land management
- Movements and impact on political spaces
- Social spaces and networks
- Building, renovating, and managing country houses and estates
- Geographical, social and familial networks of and between women
- Women's histories in heritage spaces and public history: reflections and methodologies

Please send an abstract of up to 350 words for 15 minute papers, including a short biography, to the conference organisers at: [womensspace18@outlook.com](mailto:womensspace18@outlook.com) by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.

Organisers: Stormm Buxton-Hill, Helen Manning, Lizzie Rogers, Sarah Shields, Alice Whiteoak

Twitter: @womensspace18 & @Women\_and\_Land

Gender, Place and Memory research cluster: [www.genderplaceandmemory.wordpress.com](http://www.genderplaceandmemory.wordpress.com)

**Date:** Thursday 18th January 2018

**Time:** 09:30—17:00, followed by wine reception and dinner

**Location:** University of Hull

**Keynote Speakers:** Dr Ruth Larsen (University of Derby)  
and Dr Nicola Whyte (University of Exeter)



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HISTORICAL  
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## ARE YOU A FULL MEMBER OF THE HGRG?

Some of you reading this newsletter and, perhaps, participating in our activities will not be a full member of the HGRG. Some of you, for instance, will have expressed an interest in the work of the group when you became a member of the RGS/IBG and so joined that way. And that's just great! We welcome and celebrate the breadth of our membership.

Nevertheless, there are some important benefits to be gained by switching to Full membership and we would encourage you to consider doing so. It would be of immense benefit to the Group and we promise to make you feel 'special' in return! As it stands if you are with us as a RGS/IBG member only, we receive a minimum contribution (as little as £2 *per annum*) from that. In return all you receive is this newsletter.

In short we would be delighted to welcome you to join us as a full member of the HGRG community! Membership subs are essential for us to continue to provide the full range of support and we are grateful for the collegiate generosity of members in this regard.

### **Full Membership** £12.00 *per annum*.

Should you choose to become a full member you will be added to the e-circulation list, will receive the HGRG Research Series and the HGRG Newsletter. Your subs will help support the grants that we provide to the HGRG community and you will be eligible to apply for these. Finally, you will get a reduced rate on back issues of the HGRG Research Series and have the opportunity to take up an Officering role.



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